

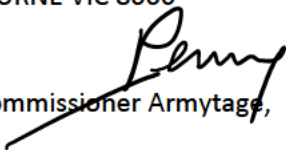


VICTORIA POLICE

Office of the Executive Director
 Capability Department
 637 Flinders Street
 Docklands Vic 3008
 Telephone [REDACTED]

6 November 2019

Chair
 Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System
 GPO Box 12079
 MELBOURNE VIC 8006


 Dear Commissioner Armytage,

Re: Question on notice from Commissioner Fels to Assistant Commissioner Glenn Weir

I write in reference to a question on notice from Commissioner Fels to Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Glenn Weir, during his appearance before the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System on 11 July 2019. Commissioner Fels' question related to the cost of mental health to Victoria Police.

As noted by Assistant Commissioner Weir at the hearing, Victoria Police's response to this question is confined to matters raised within his written statement. Furthermore, numerous limitations in establishing an accurate cost of mental health responses have been identified. These include an inability to capture the full number of mental health related events attended by police in a range of situations, such as:

- mental health Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) events only include *psychiatric patient* and *threat/attempt suicide*;
- events involving multiple factors which are classified under a non-mental health category; and
- events initially classified as non-mental health related are not reclassified if they eventuate as being mental health related.

Nevertheless, for the year 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, it is estimated the total annual cost of providing a frontline service response to mental health related events (with regard to the matters listed below only) is between \$38,483,920 and \$74,164,160. In particular:

- 43,262 mental health related events
 - 14,000 dispatches involving mental health transfers – estimated cost between \$13,884,925 and \$32,801,460
 - 29,262 dispatches that did not involve mental health transfers – estimated cost between \$16,726,707 and \$30,332,539.
- 6,674 referrals to mental health treatment services
 - estimated cost of police involvement between \$12,691 and \$27,661

- 20 PACER units
 - estimated cost between \$5,349,597 and \$8,492,500
- Victoria Police Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (FTAC)
 - Operating costs of estimated at \$2,510,000. As the FTAC only commenced operation in March 2018, an estimate for the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019 has been included.

This estimate is calculated on the base salary rate of police members and does not include on-costs such as payroll tax, superannuation, Work Cover, long service leave and leave loading. It is estimated that if on-costs were to be included, there would be an increase of approximately 15 per cent to this estimate. The difference in range relates to the difference in the salaries of the police who attend those events, the lower range representing two constables, for example.

Victoria Police also acknowledges there may be other mental health related costs that may be unmeasured at this time. To that end, Victoria Police is fully amenable to providing further detailed estimates upon request of the Royal Commission.

Yours sincerely

Alison Creighton
Executive Director
Capability Department
Victoria Police